

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 10314 091108 Z

51

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-03 DPW-01 EUR-10

PRS-01 AID-10 RSR-01 /078 W
----- 045314

R 090940 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2927

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10314

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MARR, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 8, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM CAN THO JUNE 8
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE CAN THO 0416

SUMMARY: MR IV CLAIMED 116 VC/NVA DEAD ON JUNE 7. THE
RANGER DEFEAT AT DINH AN ILLUMINATES DETERIORATING CHUONG
THIEN SECURITY. THE POLGARIANS ARE REPORTED READY TO JOIN
AN ICCS TEAM IN HONG NGU. INSIDERS DESTROYED A CA MAU CITY
OUTPOST. END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION (A) MR IV REPORTED 54 VC/NVA
INITIATED INCIDENTS THURSDAY, JUNE 7, INCLUDING FOUR
GROUND ASSAULTS, 39 ATTACKS BY FIRE, SIX HARASSMENTS,
AND FIVE TERRORIST ACTS. BELEAGURED CHUONG THIEN SUFFERED
TWO GROUND ATTACKS AND 23 ATTACKS BY FIRE. THE GVN CLAIMED
116 VC/NVA DEAD AT A COST TO ITSELF OF ONLY 14 DEAD, 125
WOUNDED, AND SEVEN MISSING.

(B) AN MR IV SOURCE HAS REVEALED GVN CASUALTIES SUFFERED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 10314 091108 Z

IN THE JUNE 5 DEBACLE IN DINH AN VILLAGE, KIEN HUNG DISTRICT, CHUONG THIEN (CAN THO 0411). HE SAID THE 86 TH RANGER BATTALION LOST 24 KILLED, 34 WOUNDED, AND 32 MISSING. THE RANGERS ALSO LOST NINE CREW SERVED WEAPONS, 78 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS, AND 19 RADIOS. ARVN CLAIMS 36 VC KILLED, ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE THIS IS AN INFLATED FIGURE. THE RANGERS REPORTEDLY SEIZED ONE VC 61 MM MORTAR AND NINE INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS.

THE DRAMATIC VC/ NVA VICTORY AT DINH AN ILLUSTRATES THE DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION IN CHUONG THIEN, WHERE VC/ NVA FORCES HAVE BEEN PURSUING AN AGGRESSIVE CAMPAIGN TO GAIN MORE TERRITORY (CAN THO 0339). 21 ST DIVISION SOURCES SAY 7000 PEOPLE HAVE FALLEN UNDER VC/ NVA CONTROL DURING THE CEASEFIRE PERIOD. SINCE THE PARIS ACCORDS WERE SIGNED, THE PROVINCE HAS SUFFERED ABOUT 15 INCIDENTS DAILY, MOSTLY ATTACKS BY FIRE, AND THE VC/ NVA HAVE OVERRUN AN AVERAGE OF ONE OUTPOST PER DAY. MOST RECENTLY, THE CA LOC OUTPOST, LONG MY DISTRICT, FELL IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JUNE 6 WITH A LOSS OF NINE PF KILLED AND THREE WOUNDED. FULL RF OR PF PLATOONS MAN THESE OUTPOSTS ON PAPER. IN FACT MANY CONTAIN NO MORE THAN SEVEN OR TEN MEN BECAUSE SOLDIERS BRIBE COMMANDERS AND DISTRICT CHIEFS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN RELEASE FROM DUTY. THEN THE OUTPOSTS, UNDERMANNED BY DEMORALIZED TROOPS, SUCCUMB EASILY TO THE VC, OFTEN WITH HELP FROM WITHIN.

2. ICCS: (A) THE MY THO VICE CONSUL REPORTS THAT THE SAIGON ICCS MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS AUTHORIZED THE HONG NGU ENTRY CONTROL POINT TEAM'S DEPLOYMENT. TELEPHONED INSTRUCTIONS HAVE ALERTED REGION VI HEADQUARTERS TO SEND A FOUR DELEGATION TEAM TO HONG NGU JUNE 12. IF THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS DEPLOY IT MAY SIGNIFY THAT THE PRG HAS ABANDONED ITS FALSE CLAIM TO CONTROL THE HONG NGU AREA. IN FEBRUARY THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS REFUSED TO DEPLOY TO HONG NGU ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PRG COULD NOT GUARANTEE ICCS SECURITY. AT THAT TIME VC/ NVA FORCES WERE PREPARING FOR AN ASSAULT ON THE TOWN WHICH GVN FORCES REPULSED IN HEAVY FIGHTING IN APRIL. HONG NGU HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET SINCE APRIL 22.

(B) THE KHANH HUNG SUBREGIONAL ICCS CANADIAN DELEGATE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 10314 091108 Z

SAID JUNE 6 THAT THE LOCAL GVN/ JMC EXPECTS A PRG TEAM TO ARRIVE BY JUNE 15. BUT THE CANADIAN SAID HIS SUPERIORS IN CAN THO BELIEVE THE PRG WILL DEPLOY TEAMS ONLY TO CAN THO, TRI TON, AND VI THANH IN REGION VII. WE REPORTED IN THE JUNE 7 SITREP THAT THE GVN/ JMC IN VI THANH EXPECTS A PRG TEAM THERE BY JUNE 15. COMMENT: IF THE PRG CHOOSE CAN THO, VI THANH, AND TRI TON AS TEAM SITES, THEY WILL

HAVE OBSERVERS WELL POSITIONED TO REPORT ON THE INTENSE
ARVN ACTIVITY THERE.

3. VC ACTIVITIES: UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS BLEW A WATCHTOWER
AT 0330 HOURS JUNE 6 ON THE EDGE OF CA MAU CITY, JUST 1500
METERS FROM THE AMERICAN PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE'S HOUSE.
NINE PF WERE KILLED AND FOUR ARE MISSING. GOVERNMENT
AUTHORITIES BLAME A VC GROUND ASSAULT, BUT LOCAL SOURCES
SAY IT WAS PROBABLY AN INSIDE JOB WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE
MISSING PF RESPONSIBLE. CANADIAN AND INDONESIAN ICCS
MEMBERS VISITED THE TOWER JUNE 7, IN RESPONSE TO A GVN/ JMC
REQUEST, BUT THE POLGARIANS PLED INSECURE CONDITIONS AND
STAYED HOME.

4. SELECTED PROVINCE COMMENT: KIEN GIANG SOURCES REPORT
THAT CONTACTS AND INCIDENTS IN THE PROVINCE DECLINED FROM
149 IN APRIL TO 114 IN MAY, BUT CASUALTIES INCREASED FOR
BOTH SIDES. ONLY FOUR GROUND ATTACKS OCCURRED IN APRIL
AND ONE IN MAY; ATTACKS BY FIRE CLAIMED MOST OF THE CASUALTIES.
THE " KILL RATIO" STRUGGLED UPWARD TO JUST ABOVE THE 1:1
RATIO MR IV COMMANDER MGEN NGUYEN VINH NGHI DEMANDED BY JUNE.
THE GVN LOST 34 DEAD IN APRIL AND 45 IN MAY, WHILE CLAIMING
18 VC/ NVA KILLED IN APRIL AND 51 IN MAY. WE AWAIT WITH
INTEREST THE NEXT ROUND OF CASUALTY FIGURES TO SEE
IF THEY MATCH NGHI'S ULTIMATE GOAL OF A 1:3 KILL RATIO.
SIGNED BARNES UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUN 1973
DecapTION Date: 28 MAY 2004
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON10314
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730620/aaaajbvy.tel
Line Count: 147
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 73 CAN THO 0416
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <16-Oct-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980209
Subject: SITREP FOR JUNE 8, 1973
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL
To: EA
JEC PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005